

**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



THE OPEN DOOR

JUNE 3, 2009

Issue 10 Volume 09

724 E. South River Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915
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Office (920) 733-7393
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
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Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Jane B. Anderson, Co-Pastor
Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
Gene Sinner, Church Administrator

Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries
Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009

COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

SermonRev. Steve Savides

Music:

9:30 a.m. The LU Music Scholars
 Michael Axtell, *LU Senior Scholar soloist*

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009

9:30 a.m.

SermonRev. Steve Savides

Music:

9:30 a.m. Flute Trio
 Barb Armstrong, Jann Kostecke,
 and Liz Schneider, *flutes*

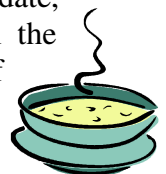
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS
BROADCAST OVER RADIO STATION WECB
104.3 FM AT 8:45 A.M**

**Worship is celebrated in the
summer at one service only. Please
join us on Sunday morning at 9:30
a.m. Child care is available.**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL SERVES AT THE EMERGENCY SHELTER THE 3RD SUNDAY IN JUNE FATHERS DAY DINNER

In June the date for our church to serve dinner at the Emergency Shelter falls on Fathers Day from 4:30 p.m. until approx. 6:30 p.m. This is always a tough day to get a reliable work group. If you're able to commit to cooking and serving on this date, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at least a week ahead of time to sign up.



CHURCH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

We have already begun planning our schedule and curriculum for next year. It helps us to plan for the upcoming year when we have updated registrations and a list of parents who are willing to teach or guide.

To register please go to:

<http://firstcongoathways.org/register.html>

(for church school) or

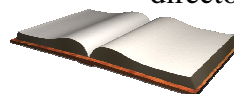
<http://www.middleschool.firstcongoathways.org>

(for Middle School).

You can register online or print the forms and send them to the church office.

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you were unable to attend the church picnic on May 31 and did not receive your church pictorial directory, you may now pick it up in the narthex. Please take only one copy per family.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8

Dear Friends,

Keeping sabbath is not something we do well in this post-modern age. We are just too busy to set aside time to honor sabbath and keep it sacred, aren't we?

Every year my siblings and I rent a place at Sunset Beach, NC for family to gather, relax and enjoy one another's company. Our gathering has no agenda. No plans are made that can't be changed. No one person is deeply attached or invested in a particular outcome to any moment or occasion. No one is concerned with what we will eat or who is cooking the meals, and believe me no one goes away hungry. Just the invitation is ushered to family to hang out and enjoy one another's company. From year to year, our time together is different, but every year we find joy and meaning in our time together. It is one of the few times in the course of a year when I really let go, not feeling like I have to plan anything, care for anyone, (other than my granddaughter who I enjoy looking after,) and enjoy the company of family. It is Sabbath time—time to just be and delight in God's creative presence, in one another and the wonderful world in which we are privileged to live.

Sabbath time is not something we honor well in our culture. We are such busy people. Even our recreation time is filled with such busyness that it feels like business. So often when we take time to be away from work, it leaves us feeling like we have done anything but been re-created in the intended image and likeness of God. Rather we bind ourselves up in exhaustive activity and anxiety. So often I hear people comment upon their return from their latest getaway, “Now I need a vacation from my vacation.” It's a testimony to crazy-making and a recipe for burnout.

God's desire for us is to remember the sabbath and keep it holy is so we cease with the business of busyness and we remember who and whose we are as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, made in the image and likeness of God's self and set free to

delight in God's creation, not that of our own making.

One of the joys of this past week of re-creation for me was to drink in the sights and sounds of this beautiful place. I delighted in watching my family playing on the beach; watching my 2 year-old granddaughter squat in the sand for hours on end as she repeatedly filled her pail with sand and water, only to dump it out again seconds later; watching my nephews try to body surf the waves only to be tumbled up onto the shore; smelling the ocean water and feel my toes sink into the wet sand; listening to the gulls cry out for more snacks, leftover from someone's lunch; watching the sandpipers dart the imposing crashing waves on the shoreline and then scamper to find the bits of nourishment each wave brought to shore. Needless to say, I could ramble on and on. But then you, the reader, would be tempted to flee, like one often does at those exasperating neighborhood dinner gatherings at which some friend's latest vacation videos are shown for hours on end.

The point of this message is this: God made the sabbath for us, not us for the sabbath. Keeping the sabbath holy is to remember who and whose we are as God's chosen and beloved ones. We honor the God in us and in one another when we take time apart from our busyness to delight in God's creation and creative process.

May you all honor the sabbath and be re-created in God's image and likeness.

Blessings,

Pastor Jane

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, continuing support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficult times in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers. Greet them with a loving word when you see them.

Dee Abts' father
Judy Bowman
Mary Kay Easty
Sue Hasz's nephew
Evelyn Gelbke
John Masaros
Ruth Reinick
Bob Scheer
Don Stoegbauer
Helen Thiel and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Glynda Taylor (wife of Reed Taylor)
Melba Webster, grandmother of Rhonda Vanden Boogaard
Kevin Worm

CONTINUING PRAYERS:

Dee Abts' mother
Katie Behl
Trish Brehm's father
Ingrid Fields
Steve Furstenberg
Ken Geiger
Tony Grade's father
Barry Helms
Heather Genke Bogacz
Jean Harkins
Carol Huebner
Ethel Jesse
Sam Johnson
Judy Kaddatz
Tammy Nelson's mother, Jacki Krause
James Marsh, father of Mae Van Driest
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer
Russ Mueller
Carla and Dennis Oudenhoven
Trina Reynolds
Bette Schmidt
Joyce Spurlock
Mary Sturtevant's son-in-law, Rob Cope
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle
Helen Wright

MUSIC NOTES

From Director For Music Ministries, John Albrecht

CALLING ALL SUMMER MUSICIANS! There are still openings for members and friends to share their musical gifts as vocal or instrumental soloists or in small ensembles. I look forward to discussing what you would like to present, and can also offer repertoire suggestions and coaching. Remember that we have just one service at 9:30 a.m. throughout the summer. Please call or e-mail me with your ideas and your best calendar dates!

Our Children's Choir celebrated its year with a pizza party on Wednesday, May 27. Each singer received a DVD copy of our spring musical, "Moses and the Freedom Fanatics" as a gift from our church. Thank you, again, to all our families for this ministry through music throughout the year!

Our Sanctuary Choir celebrated its year with a Choir Supper on Wednesday, June 3, coordinated by choir president Paul Eggen and "choir chef" Chuck Spanbauer. Many thanks to our dedicated adults who faithfully serve in music ministry each week.

Frank Rippl has again put together a wonderful Summer Organ Recital Series, featuring instruments and artists from throughout the Fox Cities. Included at our church are recitals by our organist, Jon Riehle (Aug. 19), and our former Music Director, Mary Kay Easty (Tuesday, Aug. 4). Please see the schedule in this issue.

HABITAT'S ANNUAL WOMEN BUILD – WOMEN BUILD, MEN COOK

Habitat for Humanity is having their 10th annual women build this year. This is a blitz build in which the walls are raised, the house completed and a dedication is held within a 2-week period! Again we are putting together a group of 10 ladies from our church to help build on Saturday, June 13th from 7:45am – 2:00pm. We are putting together a group of men from the church to provide the noon meal on this day. Sign up sheets for each are in the church narthex or call the church office. If you have questions, contact Julia Rhodes, 731-8521; Al Benzschawel, 915-4207.

**THE DEADLINE FOR *THE NEXT ISSUE*
OF *THE OPEN DOOR* IS 9:00 A.M. ON
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009.**

LUNCHTIME
Organ Recital Series 2009
Wednesdays* from 12:15 - 12:45
for information: call 920 734 3762 - free admission

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| June 3 | Nancy Siebecker
1st Presbyterian Church
200 Church St., NEENAH | July 22 | Blake Doss
First United Methodist Church
200 N. Drew Street., Appleton |
| June 10 | Joanne Peterson
Holy Cross Catholic Church
309 Desnoyer St., KAUKAUNA | *Tuesday Special:
July 28 | Paul Weber (12:45)
St Mary's Catholic Church
212 Appleton St., MENASHA |
| June 17 | Naomi Rowley
Faith Lutheran Church
601 E. Glendale Ave., Appleton | July 29 | Mark Paisar
1st Presbyterian Church
200 Church St., NEENAH |
| June 24 | Melissa Moll
First English Lutheran Church
326 E. North St., Appleton | *Tuesday Special:
Aug. 4 | Mary Kay Easty
First Congregational UCC
724 E. South River St., Appleton |
| July 1 | Daniel Schwandt
St. Joseph Catholic Church
404 W. Lawrence St., Appleton | Aug. 5 | Don Verkuilen
First English Lutheran Church
326 E. North St., Appleton |
| *Saturday Special:
July 4 | Frank Rippl
Trinity Lutheran Church
<i>(Patriotic sing-a-long!)</i>
209 S. Allen St., Appleton
(Lawrence at Oneida Streets) | Aug. 12 | David Bohn
Congregational UCC,
1511 Nicolet Blvd., NEENAH |
| July 8 | Marianne Chaudoir
St. Bernard's Catholic Church
1617 Pine Street., Appleton
(behind Xavier H. S.) | Aug. 19 | Jon Riehle
First Congregational UCC
724 E. South River St., Appleton |
| July 15 | Jeff Verkuilen
St. John Catholic Church
323 S. Pine St., LITTLE CHUTE | Aug. 26 | Marillyn & Ralph Freeman
St. Paul Lutheran Church
200 N. Commercial St., NEENAH |

**NORTHEAST WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Timber Rattlers Tailgate Party
Fox Cities Stadium
2400 North Casaloma Drive Appleton
Saturday, August 15, 2009
4:00 P.M. Dinner and Games for Kids
6:30 P.M. Game

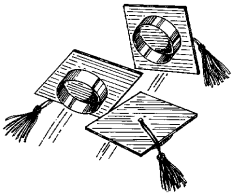
After Game FIREWORKS

Please sign up by July 20

\$12.00 per person COST \$5.00 for kids
(age 12 & under)

Want More Information: Call Rev. Bill Clyma,
Ministries Coordinator at 920-731-4781 or e-
mail him at bill@neaucc.org.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES



First Congregational would like to recognize all of our 2009 graduating students. If you know of someone in our church family who has achieved this distinction, please call the church office with the appropriate information.

MAY STATISTICS

BAPTISMS

Hazel Adela Plamann, daughter of Adam and Jennifer Plamann, May 10, 2009

Veronica Dawn Plamann, daughter of Adam and Jeffifer Plamann, May 10, 2009

Nolan David Smits, son of Neil and Kristina Smits, May 24, 2009



**SIGN-UPS BEGIN FOR BACK BAY MISSION
TRIP OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 8**

Registration continues for the Back Bay Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi for 2009. The cost is \$175 per person. A deposit of \$100 reserves your spot with the balance due in September. We have reserved space for 30 worker campers this year and could possibly make room for more. We have had a good response already, so please contact Pam or Benji Benzschawel 920-738-1614, or email Benji@proactiveproperty.com or contact Deb Burich at church if you are interested in going this year.